



Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

DD Tips

Summer 2012

What can YOU do?

The Campaign for Disability Employment is a collaborative effort to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging employers and others to recognize the value and talent they bring to the workplace.

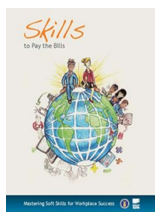
Resources for employers, people and youth with disabilities, and families and educators can be found in English and Spanish by accessing the website at www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/.

The website offers a range of educational and outreach tools with practical ideas and resources, including Public Service Announcements that challenge assumptions about people with disabilities and employment and help spread the campaign message that "At work, it's what people **can** do that matters."

Youth in Transition – Soft Skills

"[Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success](#)" is a curriculum developed by the Office of Disability Employment Policy focused on teaching "soft" or workforce readiness skills to youth, including youth with disabilities. Created for youth development professionals as an introduction to workplace interpersonal and professional skills, the curriculum is targeted for youth ages 14 to 21 in both in-school and out-of-school environments.

The basic structure of the program is comprised of modular, hands-on, engaging activities that focus on communication; enthusiasm and attitude; teamwork; networking; problem solving and critical thinking; and professionalism. Available in English and Spanish.



State Council

The most recent State Council meeting was held at the Highlands Golf Course on May 18, 2012. The next meeting will be held on August 17, 2012.

Learn about the [Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) by visiting our website.

Brave Kids

Brave Kids, a new initiative of United Cerebral Palsy, serves children with disabilities and chronic/life-threatening illnesses by providing a support community, information and resources on numerous medical conditions like genetic diseases, autism, cancer, cerebral palsy, etc. At the heart of the new Brave Kids website and community is a belief that people with disabilities and chronic/life-threatening illnesses should be able to live a life without limits.

This site contains a directory of information of interest to parents of children, ages 6-17, with disabilities and/or chronic/life-threatening illness; including a special "Kids Zone" section written for children and young adults, ages 6-17. A social networking component links parents and caregivers to others raising children with disabilities and/or a chronic/life-threatening illness.



Visit [BraveKids | Home](#) to learn more.

Assistive Technology

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, the Family Center on Technology and Disability provides a wide range of resources on assistive technology, from fact sheets and training materials to in-depth discussion of best practices and emerging research.

Access a 50-page guide in English or Spanish offering families resources to prepare for transition in their children's lives, PowerPoint presentations describing assistive technology and the role it can take in the lives of people with disabilities and their families, and a wealth of other information.



[Family Center on Technology and Disability \(FCTD\) - Assistive Technology Works!](#)

iBelong

With iBelong, L'Arche Canada has created an online resource to help individuals with disabilities have lasting friendships. Research shows that young people with intellectual disabilities have difficulty forming friendships due to a lack of social skills, and young people need a significant amount of support to form and maintain organizing encounters is difficult, and especially when it comes to transportation.



A lack of acceptance of their sons and daughters by other youth was mentioned by parents concerned that friendships do not continue outside of the school setting and organized school activities.

Visit [iBelong](#) to access resources targeted for young adults, families, and educators. Available in English and French.

Possibilities

The Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University, Michigan's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, presents the Possibilities self-determination video series focusing on the lives and accomplishments of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The purpose of these videos is to present a vision of how individuals with disabilities and their families can lead the lives they envision, without barriers and choosing the direction they wish to go. To view and order the free videos, visit Possibilities Video Series - [Developmental Disabilities Institute - Wayne State University](#).

Health Care Barriers for People with Disabilities

The ability to find affordable, quality, and accessible medical care promotes the well-being and active participation of people in their communities and in the workforce.

Each year the Equal Rights Center receives complaints from individuals across the nation with the three most significant barriers cited in those complaints being: (1) structural barriers in health care facilities; (2) inaccessible medical equipment; and (3) policies and procedures that create barriers for patients with disabilities, such as inaccessible forms of communication.



Despite legal requirements and Federal government initiatives to address barriers to accessible medical care, significant problems remain for more than 54 million Americans living with a disability. To view the November 2011 report, visit [Ill Prepared: Health Care's Barriers for People with Disabilities](#).

Nebraska Contacts

The [National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities](#) has a comprehensive list of Nebraska State agencies related to disabilities along with publications and other information in English and Spanish.

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| • DHHS Helpline | 800-254-4202 | The logo for NICHY (National Information and Communication Helpline for Youth) features a blue square with a white star at the top. Below the star are two white hands reaching up. The letters 'NICHY' are written in white at the bottom. |
| • Hotline for Disability Services | 800-742-7594 | |
| • Nebraska Advocacy Services | 800-422-6691 | |
| • Munroe-Meyer Institute | 800-656-3937 | |
| • The Arc of Nebraska | 402-475-4407 | |
| • Statewide Independent Living Council | 402-438-7979 | |
| • People First of Nebraska | 308-872-6490 | |
| • PTI Nebraska (Parent Training Information) | 800-284-8520 | |
| • ATP (Assistive Technology Partnership) | 888-806-6287 | |
| • Housing Resource Specialist | 888-806-6287 or 402-471-0734 | |
| • Funding Coordinator | 888-806-6287 or 402-471-0734 | |



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